

**DECISION**

**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES**  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548

**FILE:** B-219088; B-219088.2;  
B-219088.3

**DATE:** October 16, 1985

**MATTER OF:**

Daniel F. Young, Inc.; Universal  
Transcontinental Corporation; Amex  
International, Inc.

**DIGEST:**

GAO will not consider under our Bid Protest Regulations, 4 C.F.R. Part 21 (1985), three protests against the award of a contract to arrange international ocean freight transportation because the services are to be performed at no cost to the government and the shipment of cargo by ocean carriers is not subject generally to procurement procedures.

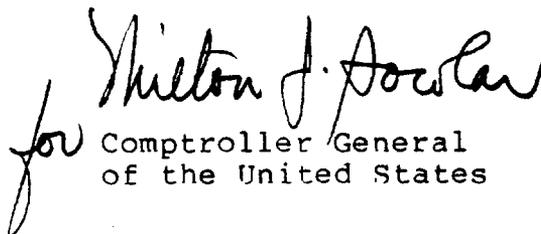
Daniel F. Young, Inc., Universal Transcontinental Corporation and Amex International, Inc., protest the award of a contract by the Agency for International Development (AID) to the Universal Shipping Company, Inc., for international ocean ship chartering and freight forwarding services in connection with AID's responsibilities for the administration and shipment of commodities under certain food donation programs. This contract was competitively procured under request for proposals (RFP) AID/OTR-85-004. The required services are to be performed by the contractor at no cost to the government. Instead, the solicitation provides that the selected contractor will receive commissions directly from the ocean carriers.

We dismiss the protests.

The RFP provides that the selected contractor will receive commodity availability notices and will arrange international ocean transportation services by initiating public freight tenders or telephonic bid requests with all common carriers serving the desired locations. The contractor is to submit all booking confirmations and charter parties to AID for the agency's approval and signature.

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We have recently held that the selection of a contractor to provide travel management services to government employees at no cost to the government in connection with airline travel is not subject to our bid protest jurisdiction. The basis for our holding is that the purchase of travel by government employees is not subject to procurement procedures and the selection of a contractor to provide travel management services to the government at no cost is no more than a management vehicle to facilitate the government's travel purchases. T.V. Travel, Inc. et al., B-218198 et al., June 25, 1985, 85-1 C.P.D. ¶ 720. Our holding in T.V. Travel governs this case since the freight forwarding and charter brokering services provided by the contractor to AID are to be performed at no cost to the government and the shipment of cargo by ocean carriers is not subject generally to procurement procedures. Therefore, this case is similarly not for consideration under our Bid Protest Regulations, 4 C.F.R. Part 21 (1985). 1/

*for*  Milton J. Fowler  
Comptroller General  
of the United States

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1/ A request for reconsideration of T.V. Travel, Inc. et al., B-218198 et al., June 25, 1985, 85-1 C.P.D. ¶ 720, is currently pending with our Office.